

Message Text

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SUBJECT: DECLARATION IN PROTEST OF THE U.S. FOREIGN
TRADE LAW

1. FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF A DECLARATION WHICH WAS
PUBLISHED IN THE JANUARY 22 EDITION OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE
DAILY JOURNAL.
QUOTE. IN THE FACE OF FOREIGN AGGRESSION TOWARDS THIS COUNTRY.

THE PRO VENEZUELA ASSOCIATION HAS INVITED ALL POLITICAL
PARTIES, WHO JOINTLY SUBSCRIBE TO THIS DOCUMENT, TO DISCUSS
THE GRAVE INTERNATIONAL SITUATION. THIS SITUATION IS PRO-
VOKED AND PROMOTED BY THE ESCALATION OF AGGRESSION AND SERIOUS
THREATS MADE BY THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT'S OPENLY
INTERVENTIONIST POLICY, DIRECTED AGAINST COUNTRIES THAT EXPORT
RAW MATERIALS, AND SPECIFICALLY AGAINST THE MEMBER COUNTRIES
OF THE OPEP.

THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ABOVE POLITICAL PARTIES ARE IN
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FULL AGREEMENT THAT UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, VENEZUELA HAS NO

ALTERNATIVE BUT DO DENOUNCE AND REJECT THE ECONOMIC AGGRESSION AND THE MILITARY THREATS VIOLATING THE UNITED NATIONS CHARTER. THESE THREATS AND AGGRESSION ARE CONTRARY TO THE POLICY OF SELF-DETERMINATION AND ARE INCOMPATIBLE WITH THE HISTORIC MEANING OF VENEZUELA.

IT IS EVIDENT THAT THE RECENT FOREIGN TRADE BILL, SANCTIONED AND APPROVED BY THE U.S. CONGRESS DISCRIMINATES AGAINST COUNTRIES THAT EXPORT RAW MATERIALS AND THAT IMPORT INTERMEDIATE GOODS AND TECHNOLOGY; THAT THE SAID LAW, USING THE EXCUSE OF THE ENERGY CRISIS AND THAT OF INTERNATIONAL INFLATION AND DEFENSE OF CONSUMER COUNTRIES, TAKES UNILATERAL ACTION AGAINST THE PRICES OF RAW MATERIALS, AND CLAIMS AT THE SAME TIME TO IMPEDE ANTIIMPERIALIST ACTION IN UNDERDEVELOPED AND DEPENDENT COUNTRIES.

WE ARE CONVINCED THAT THE PRESENT U.S. POLICY COULD LEAD TO ANY EXTREME OF AGGRESSION AND THAT THERE IS NO DOUBT OF THE DANGER TO VENEZUELA, TO LATIN AMERICA AND TO THE ARAB OIL PRODUCING COUNTRIES. GERALD FORD AND SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY KISSINGER HAVE DECLARED THE POSSIBILITY OF MILITARY INTERVENTION AND THE POSSIBILITY OF BLOCKING THE TECHNOLOGICAL SUPPLIES NECESSARY TO OUR ECONOMY. THESE FACTORS ARE TOO CONCRETE AND DECISIVE FOR US NOT TO BE WARNED THAT OUR COUNTRY IS IN DANGER. IT IS NOT JUST A QUESTION OF ECONOMY NOR TECHNOLOGY, BUT OF BASIS SOVEREIGNTY AND DIGNITY. WERE OUR POLITICAL PARTIES TO KEEP SILENT ON THIS ISSUE, IT WOULD BE A SUICIDAL CRIME.

CONSEQUENTLY, WE, WHO SUBSCRIBE TO THIS PUBLIC DECLARATION CALL ON OUR WORKERS, OUR COUNTRYMEN, BUSINESSMEN, INTELLECTUALS, STUDENTS AND ALL OUR COMPATRIOTS TO COMBINE IN A UNITED FRONT IN DEFENSE OF OUR COUNTRY AGAINST THESE THREATS AND AGGRESSION. THIS IS NOT A QUESTION OF OFFICIAL SUPPORT, NOR IS IT A QUESTION OF SUPPORT FOR THIS OR THAT PARTY, INSTITUTION OR PERSON. IT IS A CALL ON THE WHOLE COUNTRY TO DEFEND ITS SOVEREIGNTY, ITS LIBERTY AND ITS AUTONOMOUS DEVELOPMENT. FIRMNESS, INTELLIGENCE, AND PATRIOTISM, AS WELL AS PRUDENCE AND CALM ARE THE VIRTUES NEEDED TO FACE THE PROBLEM AND DEFEND OUR RIGHTS.

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IT IS TO OUR CREDIT THAT WE HAVE INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY AND MUTUAL DEFENSE AMONG THE LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES, AS WELL AS THE OTHER COUNTRIES INCLUDED IN THE THIRD WORLD. THIS ALSO APPLIES ESPECIALLY TO ALL MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE OPEP.

THUS, ALL POLITICAL PARTIES ARE IN FULL AGREEMENT ON THE PRIORITY IN VIEW, OF THE PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES, OF IMMEDIATE

NATIONALIZATION OF THE PETROLEUM INDUSTRY. NATIONALIZATION
WILL NOT ONLY BE AN ADEQUATE RESPONSE TO IMPERIALIST
AGGRESSION, IT IS ALSO THE END RESULT OF THE NATURAL PROCESS

OF VENEZULAN DEVELOPMENT. IT IS A CATEGORICAL DEMONSTRATION
THAT CONTROL AND DIRECTION OF OUR BASIC RESOURCES CANNOT BE
MANIPULATED BY OTHER COUNTRIES IN A PSYCHOLOGICAL WAR, NOT
BY SORDID MILITARY PRESSURE BY ANY POWER WHATSOEVER.

CONSCIOUS AS WE ARE, THAT WITHIN THE U.S. THERE ARE CERTAIN
FACTIONS IN FAVOUR OF MILITARY AGGRESSION AGAINST WEAKER
COUNTRIES, WE CONSIDER IT NECESSARY TO TAKE STEPS TO INFORM
AND ENCOURAGE A CRITICAL CONSCIOUSNESS IN SUCH FACTIONS.
WITH THIS IN MIND, WE WILL INVITE THEM TO OUR COUNTRY.

BUT THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT THE MAIN AND DECISIVE
BATTLE MUST BE FOUGHT BY THE PEOPLE, WITH THE FULL COOPERATION
OF ALL SECTORS, SHOWING A VAST AND SOLID PATRIOTIC FRONT.
THIS COOPERATION ALSO DEMANDS BETTER ACCESS TO THE COMMUNICATIONS
MEDIA, ESPECIALLY THOSE IN THE HANDS OF THE STATE, TO BE
ABLE TO REACH ALL SECTORS. THIS ALARM IS NOT EXAGGERATED,
NEITHER IS THERE FALSE ARROGANCE IN THIS LANGUAGE, JUST
THE SURE CONVICTION, THAT A UNITED AND ALERT PEOPLE, SURE
OF THEIR RIGHT TO SURVIVAL, IS INVINCIBLE.

WE ARE FULFILLING OUR DUTY AS POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS
AND BY JOINTLY SUBSCRIBING TO THIS DECLARATION, WHICH WILL
BE COMPLEMENTED WITH OTHER MANIFESTOS FROM EACH PARTY, WE ARE
CALLING ON THE VENEZUELAN YOUTH, ON WORKERS, ORGANIZATIONS
AND ON CULTURAL AND SCIENTIFIC ORGANIZATIONS, TO EXPRESS
THEIR GOOD WILL TO FIGHT, TO JOIN, WITH US IN THE
CREATION AND DEEPENING OF A CLEAR CONSCIOUSNESS OF THE DANGER
AND TO PRESENT A UNITED PATRIOTIC FRONT.
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